

EO
828
p/b

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**STB DOCKET NO. AB-254 (Sub. No. 9X), PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER
RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—SLATERVILLE
SECONDARY TRACK IN WOONSOCKET, RI AND BLACKSTONE, MA**

March 21, 2008

ACTION

Remove Section 106 Condition

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(x) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(x) NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on March 30, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended one (1) environmental condition (Section 106) and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. On April 20, 2007, SEA recommended in a Post EA that a Section 106 (see below) be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority in this proceeding. On March 19, 2008 SEA received the determinations from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission which concluded that the proposed abandonment would have no effect on significant historic or archaeological resources.

Conclusion

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission have determined, based on available information, that the proposed abandonment would have no effect on significant historic or archaeological resources. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA and Post EA be removed:

- P&W shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. P&W shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPOs and any other Section 106 consulting parties. P&W may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above condition is removed, SEA believes that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

SEA CONTACT: Phillis Johnson-Ball X0304.

RECEIVED JAN 15



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

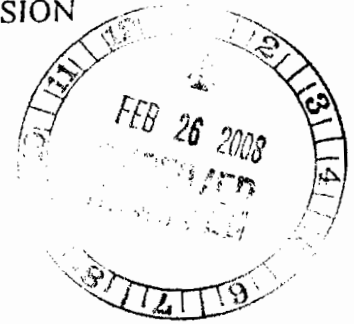
Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

FAX (401) 222-2968

TTY (401) 222-3700

Website www.preservation.ri.gov



8 January 2008

Mr. Jonathan Meindersma
Assistant General Counsel
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

RE: Proposed rail line abandonment
Slatersville Secondary Branch
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Meindersma:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission staff has reviewed the information that you have provided on the Providence and Worcester Railroad's proposal to abandon a 1.1 mile-long portion of its Slatersville Secondary Track, in Woonsocket, Rhode Island and Blackstone, Massachusetts. This information includes a determination by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC).

The MHC has determined that the abandonment is "unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources in Massachusetts." Jeffrey Emidy, Project Review Coordinator for this office, examined the right-of-way and has determined that there are no significant structures present on the Woonsocket section of the right-of-way. Based upon our review, it is our conclusion that the proposed installation will have no effect on significant historic properties. Therefore, we have no objection to the abandonment of this portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions please contact Jeffrey Emidy, Project Review Coordinator of this office.

Very truly yours,

Edward Sanderson, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

RECEIVED DEC 20 2006

RECEIVED

NOV 24 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

RC 41116



November 22, 2006

FOUNDED 1844

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment of
Portion of Slatersville Track *Blackstone, MA*

Dear Sir or Madam:

On December 29, 2006, Providence and Worcester Railroad Company is filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a 1.1 +/- mile portion of its branch line known as the Slatersville Secondary Track, located in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at Mile Post 0.85 +/- and continuing to a point that is 1480.3 feet northerly of the end of track at Mile Post 0.0 in Blackstone, Massachusetts. Attached is an environmental and historic report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and/or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone (202) 565-1500. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Edward D. Greenberg, who may be contacted by telephone at (202) 342-5277 or by mail at Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C., 1054 Thirty-First Street, N

Very truly yours,

Marie A. Angelini
Marie A. Angelini
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

After review of MHC files and the materials you submitted, it has been determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources in Massachusetts.

ED MHC RC 41116
Edward L. Bell
Senior Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

18 December 2006

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY
75 HAMMOND STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01610 P.O. BOX 16551, WORCESTER, MA 01601
TELEPHONE (508) 755-1000 FAX (508) 755-0710